



Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

60th Montana Legislature

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RICK LAIBLE
TERRY MURPHY
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HOUSE MEMBERS

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LISA JACKSON, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

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CONTACT: Sue O'Connell, 444-3597 or soconnell@mt.gov

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE BEGINS STUDY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEMS

HELENA – A legislative committee will begin work on two studies related to health care services when it meets Sept. 24 in Helena.

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee will examine Montana's emergency medical services (EMS) and ways to maintain them, as well as the ways in which health care services are provided at various types of health care facilities. The 2007 Legislature authorized the two studies, which will be conducted over the next several months with an eye toward developing legislation to address issues identified by the committee in the course of its work.

The Children and Families committee will begin the EMS study authorized in Senate Joint Resolution 5 with presentations on state government's role in overseeing EMS providers and planning for a statewide trauma care system. The committee also will hear from local government representatives about the issues they face in funding and maintaining services at the local level.

SJR 5 asks that the committee identify strategies for ensuring that emergency medical services remain in place throughout the state.

In addition, the committee will hear a number of staff presentations on issues related to the delivery of health care services in Montana, to lay the groundwork for its SJR 15 study. That resolution authorized a review of how the different means of providing health care services in Montana affect the cost and quality of care, including the effects of facilities that focus on certain types of services. The SJR 15 presentations will cover the different types of health care delivery services in Montana, the tax treatment of nonprofit and for-profit health care facilities, issues involving economic and physician credentialing, and court cases related to credentialing.

The committee also will hear an update on the activities of the Department of Public Health and Human Services, as part of its oversight responsibilities for that agency. And the meeting will serve as a forum for discussion of the state's Community Services Block Grant application, which outlines how regional human services organizations plan to use approximately \$3 million in federal funds in each of the next two years for programs designed to assist low-income people.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Room 137 of the Capitol.